Bicentenary celebrations of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

463. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) in what way the Bicentenary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's coronation whose kingdom was the last to lay arms before the British is proposed to be celebrated; and

(b) whether there are any plans to establish a permanent memorial by way of tribute to Maharaja Ranjit Singh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Bicentenary of coronation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh is being celebrated by the State Government of Punjab in collaboration with Maharaja Ranjit Singh Trust. Government of India (Department of Culture) is processing a proposal for setting up a panorama on Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Amritsar in consultation with the Government of Punjab.

Poor condition of ancient monuments In Maharashtra

464. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ancient monuments in Maharashtra State are in a bad condition;

(b) if so whether any survey have been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the conditions of such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Monuments are annually inspected and surveyed to ascertain their condition. Conservation of centrally protected monuments by Archaeological Survey of India is an ongoing process. The maintenance and conservation of protected monuments are undertaken as per archaeological principles, and specific requirement of the monuments subject to the availability of funds.

Development of tourist triangle in West Bengal

465. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop Sibpur Botanical Garden, Bellur Math and Dakhineswaar Kali Temple as a tourist triangle in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a), No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development of tourist/pilgrim centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consulatation with them every year based on the merit of proposals and availability of funds. The list of prioritised projects of West Bengal for 2001-2002 does not include any project for development of Sibpur Botanical Garden, Bellur Math or Dakhineswar Kali Temple.